

example in military history. Your committee deem it necessary to mention but one additional fact, which in their opinion is conclusive on the subject; a fact so remarkable, that your committee would have felt some unwillingness in making the statement, if it were not in the power of every member of this honourable body to satisfy himself, by inquiring into the subject. St. John's college was opened in 1784; the number of students at this institution has varied from sixty to one hundred and seventy; and but one death has occurred among the pupils from that date to the present time. The committee have considered it proper to state these facts, believing, that whatever advantages a place may have in other respects, if it is not healthy, it ought not to be used as a site for a Naval Academy.

With regard to the second consideration, "convenience to water." Annapolis is incomparably well situated. Take the whole Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida, and there is no such arm of the sea as the Chesapeake bay, taking into view its extent, the safety of its navigation, its fine tributary streams, and its safe harbours. On a peninsula, formed by the Severn on the north, with one of its branches stretching to the northwest, and another to the south, stands Annapolis; with a broad harbour, as remarkable for its beauty as for its safety, intervening between it and the bay; so strikingly beautiful is its situation, that no stranger can behold it without emotions of delight, and expressions of admiration. But your committee would not rest its claims to preference upon its beauty, but upon its extraordinary adaptation to the particular purpose in question. Here is a river, extending ten or twelve miles into the interior of the country, at the city a mile and a half wide, with a depth of from four to six fathoms water, without rocks or shoals, expanding at about seven miles from the city into one of the most beautiful bays that can be conceived. If then the national government should finally determine upon the establishment of a Naval Academy, and should combine, as your committee cannot doubt they would, the practice, with the theory of the profession, at the Naval School, where can there be found a finer sheet of water than the Round Bay, for the practice of naval manœuvres? Here, in perfect security and in perfect retirement, the students of the Naval Academy may be taught a practical knowledge of their duty, and fitted to become the future defenders of their country. This last consideration is, of itself, important, for in no institution ought the pupils to be more carefully placed out of the reach of temptations to dissipation, than in a Naval Academy. On these grounds alone, in the opinion of your committee, the legislature of Maryland might rest their pretensions for Annapolis. But there are other considerati-